



State Senator
**Thomas J.
Herlihy**



MAKING OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION A PRIORITY

Our region has witnessed the damaging effects of commercial sprawl and unplanned residential development. Never before has the need to preserve open space been more important and it is the reason why I have fought so hard to make open space preservation a priority. Since I have served the Eighth District, over \$8,000,000 in grants have been awarded for the preservation of farmland and open space. Each and every town has benefited from this funding. I continue to fight for additional funding, the most recent example being over \$1,000,000 awarded for the purchase of Jones Mountain and the Goula Property in New Hartford.

This year I was able to pass into law legislation that will allow any municipal government greater flexibility in passing ordinances that would allow them to trade long term tax abatement for the transfer of development rights and the preservation of open space.

Along with my good friend and colleague, Senator Andrew Roraback of Goshen, I co-sponsored two amendments that would have set aside funding for open space initiatives. One would have required that 10% of the state's budget surplus be utilized to fund open space acquisition. The second measure was a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed every voter in Connecticut to decide (via referendum) if they wanted a portion of the state's sales tax to be earmarked for the preservation of open space. While these amendments did not become law, I remain committed to working for this important environmental issue.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Herlihy